Guidelines on writing on currency notes

†2163. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether writing on currency notes is prohibited;

(b) if so, whether Government have enacted any law to prohibit the same; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to frame any guidelines or enact a law to prohibit writing on currency notes in order to maintain their life as well as to prevent them from being useless?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Section 2 of the Legal Tender (Inscribed) Notes Act, 1964 provides that a bank note issued by the RBI or a Rupee one note issued under Currency Ordinance, 1940 which bears written upon it any extrinsic words or visible representation intended to convey or capable of conveying a message of a political character, shall not be legal and the RBI shall not be under any legal obligation to receive any such note and issue rupee coins, currency or banknotes in exchange thereof or to refund the value of any such note.

The RBI in exercise of powers conferred by Section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 has also directed banks to stop writing of any kind on watermark window of bank notes.

Excess spending by States

2164. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a report submitted by Comptroller and Auditor General on the 22nd April, 2003 stated that a sum of Rs. 1,91,554 crores had been spent by the Centre and the States in violation of Articles 115(1)(b) and 205(1)(b) of Indian constitution;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any serious efforts to introduce stringent rules and regulations to monitor constantly and vigorously to curb at the initial stage itself, with regard to excess spending in violation of Indian Constitution;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March, 2002—Union Government (No. 1 of 2003) was presented in Parliament on 22nd April, 2003. In paragraph 7.1 of the report, excess expenditure of Rs. 1095,25,19,564 was reported requiring regularization under Article 115(1)(b) of the constitution. General Financial Rules contain detailed guidelines for prudent expenditure management and control. The Ministry of Finance has issued directions to all the Ministries/Departments to avoid recurrence of excess expenditure over sanctioned provision and closely monitor the expenditure and realistically estimate requirements, including where supplementary grants are sought, in order to ensure proper and timely utilization within the approved budget provisions.

(d) Does not arise.

Assistance to Bombay Mercantile Co-operative Bank

2165. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI has received representation to grant assistance to the long established Bombay Mercantile Co-operative Bank;

(b) the details of demands to help this bank which focuses on small loans to the Minority Community;

(c) whether Government and RBI has called a meeting to find ways and means to assist the Bank; and

(d) what basic inhibitions and hurdles do Government anticipate in helping this bank expand and grow?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir. Reserve Bank of India has not received any representation for financial assistance from the Bank.

(b) Does not arise.